WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of providing a third party logging proxy
    server, said method comprising:
    obtaining one or more product identifiers from one or
        more providers, each product identifier
        corresponding to a product;
    receiving a product sale identifier from a merchant;
    identifying one of the product identifiers that
        corresponds to the product sale identifier; and
    storing a sales record in response to receiving the
        product sale identifier.

2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
    receiving a royalty rate corresponding with at least
        one of the product identifiers from one of the
        providers;
    wherein the storing further includes:
        calculating an account balance for the merchant.

3. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
    receiving a payment from the merchant in response to
        receiving the product sale identifier,
    wherein the payment is calculated based on the
        received royalty rate corresponding to the
        product sale identifier.

4. The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
    calculating an account balance for the provider
        corresponding with the identified product
        identifier.

1 5.   The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:

2   transferring funds corresponding to the provider's

3   account balance to the provider; and

4   modifying the provider's account balance in response

5   to the transferring.

1 6.   The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:

2   receiving a payment from the merchant corresponding to

3   the merchant's account balance; and

4   modifying the merchant's account balance in response

5   to receiving the payment.

1 7.   The method as described in claim 1 wherein the

2   products include digital works, the method further

3   comprising:

4   receiving one or more digital works from the

5   providers;

6   storing the works on a nonvolatile storage device;

7   receiving a download request from a merchant computer

8   corresponding to the merchant; and

9   downloading one of the digital works to the merchant

10   computer in response to receiving the download

11   request.

8.   The method as described in claim 7 further comprising:

2   receiving one or more royalty rates from the providers

3   corresponding to the digital works; and

4   providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1 9.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   registering each provider with the third party logging

3   proxy server prior to the obtaining; and

4   providing each provider with an access mechanism in

5   response to the registering.

1 10.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   registering the merchant with the third party logging

3   proxy server prior to the receiving; and

4   providing the merchant with an access mechanism in

5   response to the registering.

1 11.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the

3   providers;

4   searching a data store in response to the inquiry;

5   preparing a search result in response to the

6   searching; and

7   returning the search result to the provider.

1 12.   The method as described in claim 11 wherein the search

2   result includes whether one or more merchants are

3   registered with the third party logging proxy server.

1 13.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   a network interface connecting the information

5   handling system to a computer network;

6   a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the

7   processors; and

8   a logging tool, the logging tool including:

9   means for obtaining one or more product

10   identifiers from one or more provider

11   computers connected to the computer network,

12   each product identifier corresponding to a

13   product;

14   means for receiving a product sale identifier

15   from a merchant computer connected to the

16   computer network;

17   means for identifying one of the product

18   identifiers that corresponds to the product

19   sale identifier; and

20   means for storing a sales record in response to

21   receiving the product sale identifier.

1   14.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   13 further comprising:

3   means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with

4   at least one of the product identifiers from one

5   of the provider computers;

6   wherein the means for storing further includes:

7   means for calculating an account balance for the

8   merchant corresponding to the merchant

9   computer.

1   15.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   14 further comprising:

3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant in

4   response to receiving the product sale

5   identifier,

6   wherein the payment is calculated based on the

7   received royalty rate corresponding to the

8   product sale identifier.

1   16.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   14 further comprising:

3   means for calculating an account balance for the
4   provider corresponding with the identified
5   product identifier.

1   17.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   16 further comprising:
3   means for transferring funds corresponding to the
4   provider's account balance to the provider; and
5   means for modifying the provider's account balance in
6   response to the transferring.

1   18.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   14 further comprising:
3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant
4   corresponding to the merchant's account balance;
5   and
6   means for modifying the merchant's account balance in
7   response to receiving the payment.

1   19.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 wherein the products include digital works, the
3   information handling system further comprising:
4   means for receiving one or more digital works from the
5   provider computers;
6   means for storing the works on the nonvolatile storage
7   device;
8   means for receiving a download request from the
9   merchant computer; and
10   means for downloading one of the digital works to the
11   merchant computer in response to receiving the
12   download request.

1   20.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   19 further comprising:
3   means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the
4   providers corresponding to the digital works; and
5   means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1   21.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for registering each provider computer with the
4   third party logging proxy server prior to the
5   means for obtaining; and
6   means for providing each provider computer with an
7   access mechanism in response to the registering.

1   22.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for registering the merchant computer with the
4   third party logging proxy server prior to the
5   means for receiving; and
6   means for providing the merchant computer with an
7   access mechanism in response to the registering.

1   23.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   13 further comprising:
3   means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
4   provider computers;
5   means for searching the nonvolatile storage device in
6   response to the inquiry;
7   means for preparing a search result in response to the
8   searching; and
9   means for returning the search result to the provider
10   computer.

1   24.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   23 wherein the search result includes whether one or
3   more merchants are registered with the third party
4   logging proxy server.

1   25.   A computer program product for providing a third party
2   logging proxy server, said computer program product
3   comprising:
4   means for obtaining one or more product identifiers
5   from one or more providers, each product
6   identifier corresponding to a product;
7   means for receiving a product sale identifier from a
8   merchant;
9   means for identifying one of the product identifiers
10   that corresponds to the product sale identifier;
11   and
12   means for storing a sales record in response to
13   receiving the product sale identifier.

1   26.   The computer program product as described in claim 25
2   further comprising:
3   means for receiving a royalty rate corresponding with
4   at least one of the product identifiers from one
5   of the providers;
6   wherein the means for storing further includes:
7   means for calculating an account balance for the
8   merchant.

1   27.   The computer program product as described in claim 26
2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant in

4   response to receiving the product sale

5   identifier,

6   wherein the payment is calculated based on the

7   received royalty rate corresponding to the

8   product sale identifier.

1   28.   The computer program product as described in claim 26

2   further comprising:

3   means for calculating an account balance for the

4   provider corresponding with the identified

5   product identifier.

1   29.   The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for transferring funds corresponding to the

4   provider's account balance to the provider; and

5   means for modifying the provider's account balance in

6   response to the transferring.

1   30.   The computer program product as described in claim 26

2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving a payment from the merchant

4   corresponding to the merchant's account balance;

5   and

6   means for modifying the merchant's account balance in

7   response to receiving the payment.

1   31.   The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   wherein the products include digital works, the

3   computer program product further comprising:

4   means for receiving one or more digital works from the

5   providers;

6   means for storing the works on a nonvolatile storage

7   device;

8   means for receiving a download request from a merchant

9   computer corresponding to the merchant; and

10   means for downloading one of the digital works to the

11   merchant computer in response to receiving the

12   download request.

1   32. The computer program product as described in claim 31

2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving one or more royalty rates from the

4   providers corresponding to the digital works; and

5   means for providing the royalty rates to the merchant.

1   33. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for registering each provider with the third

4   party logging proxy server prior to the

5   obtaining; and

6   means for providing each provider with an access

7   mechanism in response to the registering.

1   34. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for registering the merchant with the third

4   party logging proxy server prior to the

5   receiving; and

6   means for providing the merchant with an access

7   mechanism in response to the registering.

1   35. The computer program product as described in claim 25

2   further comprising:

3   means for receiving a merchant inquiry from one of the
4   providers;
5   means for searching a data store in response to the
6   inquiry;
7   means for preparing a search result in response to the
8   searching; and
9   means for returning the search result to the provider.

36. The computer program product as described in claim 35
     wherein the search result includes whether one or more
3   merchants are registered with the third party logging
4   proxy server.